

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 4:30 pm in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Ed Koslowski, Joan Brusky, Jerry Polus, Kerry Metoxen

EXCUSED: Louise Dahlke, Duane Pierce, Delores Pierce

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:30 pm.

2. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Ed Koslowski to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. Approve/Modify Minutes of March 20, 2018.

Motion made by Ed Koslowski, seconded by Joan Brusky to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Update re: Honor Rewards Program.

CVSO Jerry Polus informed there are currently 292 veterans enrolled in the Honor Rewards program along with 83 businesses. Erickson noted he will put information on a neighborhood website he is on to get the word out about the program.

5. Discussion re: 2018 Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.

Koslowski said he has made contact with the Monterey Trail Band to get a contract to perform at the event. He also talked about the banners and noted that those cannot be updated until the location of the event is set because he does not want to put inaccurate information on them. He also talked about the light up sign that was donated by the Homemakers group and said he is about half way done with the repairs.

Polus reviewed the list of groups he will be inviting to the event. He intends to ask the following to participate: Vets Center, Federal VA, VA Clinic, Center for Veterans Issues, VORP, Honor Rewards, WDVA, Veterans Home in King, and possibly a representative of Cap Tel which is a program that provides devices for hearing impaired people. Koslowski also mentioned asking the fly fishing group to attend the event. Polus said we would need at least 10 tables for the organizations he mentioned.

Brusky asked if there were any other events throughout the year where veterans have access to the resources and information that are available at the Fair. Koslowski said in the past there were discussions regarding having a similar event to the Fair on Veterans Day, but that did not materialize because so many veterans are out taking advantage of offers and deals that they did not think it would be well attended. Brusky thought doing something about six months after the Fair would be a good idea because once a year may not be enough. Koslowski said they had an event at the VFW in Howard several years ago that was similar to what they do at the Fair, but the building was way too small so they decided to do this in conjunction with the Fair which has worked out well. Polus said Brusky's point is well taken and he would be open to doing some sort of additional event if a location could be found that would provide some space

for free. Brusky said there are places like Lambeau Field that may be able to host something like this. Polus said this is something we can talk about in the future and Erickson suggested that this be added as an additional agenda item for further discussion on the next agenda. Metoxen said they have also thought about having a stand down in Oneida for veterans. He thought Congressman Gallagher may be a good resource to contact since he has a veteran liaison in his office. Polus said he can reach out to the liaison to see if she would be willing to promote the liaison services without promoting Congressman Gallagher's office.

Polus felt that having the Fair event on Sunday may be a blessing in disguise. Erickson agreed and said he talked about this event while he was out campaigning and having the event on Sunday seemed to be very well received. He also stated he will contact the media contacts he has prior to the event to get some coverage. Brusky also suggested contacting WBAY to check into the possibility of appearing on the noon show to promote the event.

The certificates and dog tags that will be distributed at the Fair were also discussed briefly. Erickson questioned how many dog tags would be needed and it was determined that ordering 200 tags would likely be sufficient.

6. Report of CVSO Jerry Polus.

Polus informed a new employee started in his office today. The employee, Krina Christensen, brings a great deal of experience with her and he noted that she has worked for the past 12 years for the VA Regional Office in Milwaukee so she is able to jump right in after shadowing Polus and other staff for a week. She will be attending training in Madison and South Dakota in the coming months so she will be receiving both state and national training which is critical.

7. Reports from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Brusky, Dahlke, Haskins, Koslowski, Pierce).

-Erickson did not have anything further to report.

-Brusky mentioned the Annual Old Car Show and Open House which will be held at the Veterans Home in King, Wisconsin on May 20, 2018. The event will include live entertainment, cruises on the Chain of Lakes, food and refreshments and an old car and vintage military vehicle show. Polus said his office usually receives posters to post for this event. Brusky asked about care offered at King and Polus explained that King offers skilled nursing care for veterans, their spouses or surviving spouses or parents. Polus said King has over 700 residents and is a beautiful place and is strongly supported by many veterans' organizations as well as community organizations. He talked a little more about King and said that with the number of assisted facilities all over the place, less people are asking to go to King. Metoxen added that King is also a contracted nursing home as well for those that are rated 70% disabled or more.

-Koslowski said the Secretary of Veterans Affairs was at the Amvets district meeting in Milwaukee recently and mentioned something about an 18 bed nursing facility being proposed for Green Bay. Erickson recalled sitting through meetings on the veterans manor project and what Koslowski is referencing may be part of that, although he does not know this for sure.

Koslowski said there will be a Fisher House fundraiser at the Duck Creek Pub on April 27 beginning at 6:00 pm and he encouraged people to come out and bid on raffle baskets and enjoy the event.

-Metoxen reported that he had met with Polus recently to talk about the Honor Flight coming up and, more specifically, to work with the Radisson to offer a favorable rate for those going on the Honor Flight that need to come in the night before the flight and then to shuttle people to the airport early the next morning. They will also be looking for parking for people coming to the welcome home ceremony later on the day of the flight.

8. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law. None.**
9. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Kerry Metoxen, seconded by Ed Koslowski to adjourn at 5:14 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio

Administrative Specialist